Opinion
Concerning Newark
Cover Story –

Rev. West's Gala
...a fabulous affair
Pages 11, 12 & 13

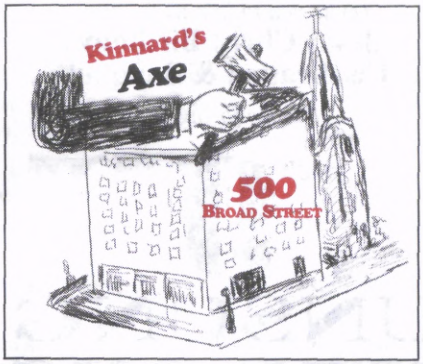
The Shadow Knows ...
Skippy
Page 22

The **Black Mirror** News

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VOL. 11, NO. 12 • DECEMBER 2006 Your Hometown Newspaper

It's time for the people of Newark to wake up...



Death of Newark Middle Class

KEITH KINNARD, Executive Director of the Newark Housing Authority is just what the city of Newark needs, another "genuis" riding into town on a white horse to "save" the "poor long suffering" folks who have lived in Newark all of their lives.

It's time for the people of Newark to wake up and realize that they have been had.

– (continued on page 3)

Farewell



Some of you may have known him as "Jimmy," some as "Ben." Others call him "James," and "Bavu" was sometimes his name. But no matter what we called him, we all knew him as the same.

August 19, 1953 • November 17, 2006

JAMES CARL BENJAMIN

(see Fallen Leaves on pages 25-26)

To love my people shouldn't imply I hate others...
(AUTHOR UNKNOWN)

New Jersey Edition

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OPINION – *continued from front cover*

Death of Newark's Middle Class

This is not 1970. is anyone seriously saying to the residents of Newark, that there was no one available who has a knowledge of the community, who is familiar with the elected-officials and community leaders, and has the necessary management skills to effectively lead the Newark Housing Authority? If someone is saying that, its a lie!

Is someone out there laying the groundwook to return Robert Graham to run the agency? There will be more on that possibility as well as the forgotten role Mr. Graham played in the monumental failures of the agency in a future issue of the Black Mirror News.

Let's be clear on this, the former Executive Director of the Newark Housing Authority, Harold Lucas, made many mistakes, probably his biggest mistake was placing the wrong people in key positions, who where flat-out not getting the job done.

But give the devil his due, Mr. Lucas knows Newark and its people, it is very doubtful that he would have laid-off 271 employees and replaced them with $150,000 imports from Pittsburgh, PA.

Mr. Kinard has laid-off or fired over 300 employees since taking over the helm of the troubled agency. According to many Newark Public Housing residents. They have yet to see any measurable improvement in their quality of life or neighborhoods.

Comments now coming from so-called tenant advocates and late to the battle-front labor union leaders have been highly critical of the lay-offs, citing as one person said, "IT's" (*the lay-offs*) going to have a drastic effect on services. How in the heck do they intend to maintain the property?"

Most of those laid-off are Newark residents who constitute the city's middle-class. People who pay tuition for their children, patronize local retail-stores, pay property taxes, and struggle to pay their mortgages. Where are these folks going to find new jobs?

Maybe, in Pittsburgh!

The alarm has sounded, the City's elected-leaders (mayor, council members) need to get involved in what is happening at 500 Broad Street. It is going to be very difficult for the Newark economy to absorb more unemployment.

– to be continued –

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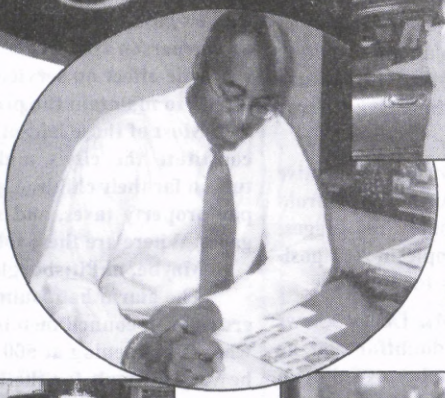
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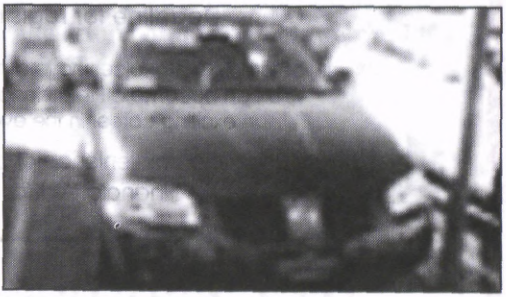
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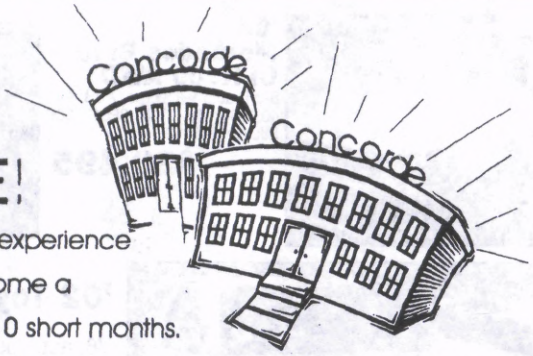
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FROM: Route 22 get off at the Union exit onto Morris Avenue (Kean University). Proceed toward Elizabeth on Morris Avenue for 1/4 mile. Turn on Salem Road and go 1/2 mile to Galloping Hill Caterers on the right.

Dear Friend/Colleague:

On December 29, 2006 and after 32 years the curtain will be drawn on the career of one of our very best, Barbara Gilsenan of the Personnel Department.

Barbara will be leaving the Newark Housing Authority for a new opportunity, one that will include significant periods of rest. Simply, put Barbara's retiring!!

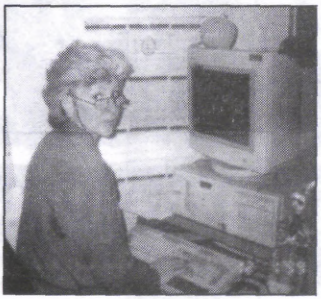
The advertisement on page 8 has information about her upcoming "Retirement Party."

We are asking, that you please show your support for Barbara by planning to attend this event and joining in to wish her luck and continued happiness. The ticket price is $55.00 per person, but if you find yourself unable to attend, you can still show your support with a small donation.

That donation should be in the form of a check, made out to the "BG Retirement Party," and sent to:

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Sincerely,
The BG Retirement Committee



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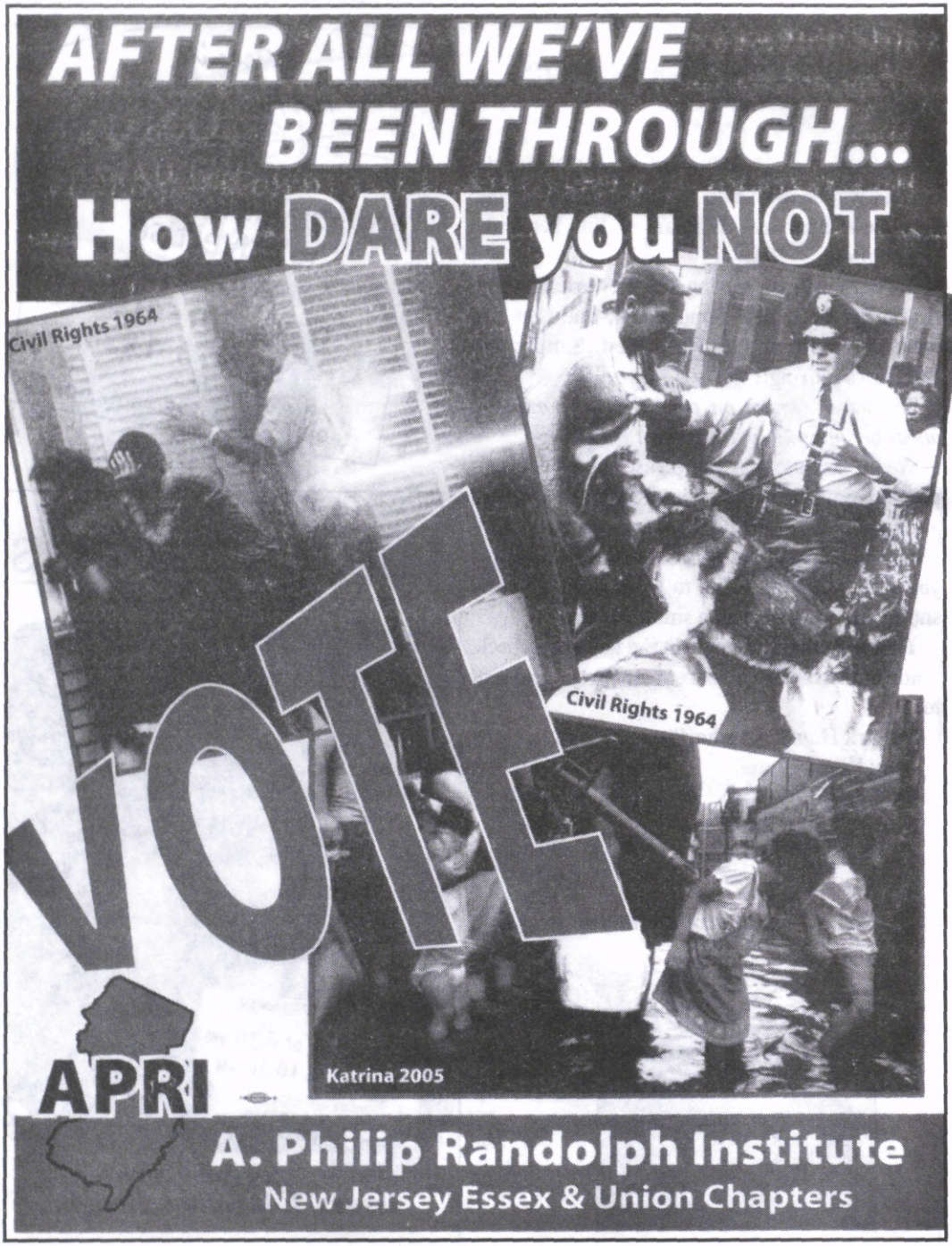
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It was all about coming together in the spirit of fellowship. Everyone from the likes of Newark mayor Cory Booker, Councilwoman Dana Rone, former mayor Sharpe James, NJ Gov. Jon Corzine, Essex Co. Dem. Tom Giblin, Mary Dawkins, Mrs. (Donald) Cleopatra Tucker, Oscar James, Sr. coming out to support Rev. West's 27th Annual Affair.

–continued on pages 12 & 13

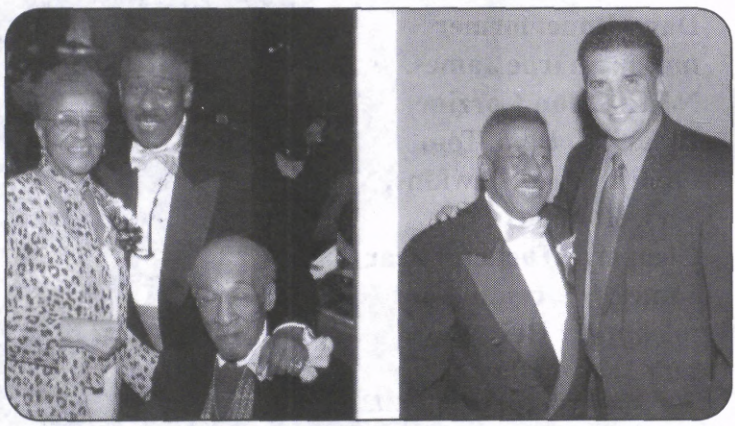






–continued from page 11

Mother Ella Langston, Det. Ronald Salajuddin, Mrs. Manigault & husband, Joe Divencenzio, Ray Brown, Sr., Rev. Reginald Jackson, Calvin West, Terrance Diggs, Chris Durkin, Newark Council president Mildred Crump, Anaidee Teresa Ruiz, Minister Foreman, Feldman Middleton(owner of the new Applebees's), Assem. Bill Payne Freeholder Carol Clark, Sheldon Bross, Rev. West's family Kathy Edwards, Carolyn Kelly Councilman Quintana, came out to support Rev. West's 27th Annual Affair.







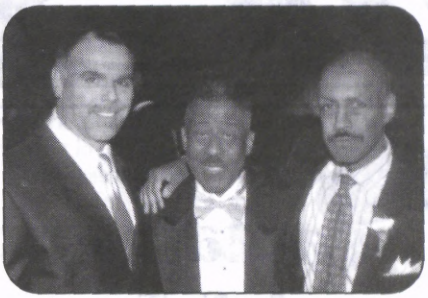
















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It was an 11-year royalty battle with Atlantic in the '70s and '80s that led to the establishment of the Rhythm and Blues Foundation, which provides financial help to vintage R&B artists.

Ruth Brown was a R&B diva for the ages!

RON PORAMBO, 67

covered the '67 Newark riots

When he was a reporter, he developed a reputation for championing the underdog. His book, "No Cause for Indictment: An Autopsy of Newark" was a scathing commentary on conditions that led to the civil unrest, the handling of the uprising by police and the National Guard, and its subsequent investigation.

He once worked for the night-life newspaper After Hour News as a boxing reporter in the '60s, among various other newspapers.

Ken Gibson, who became Newark's first African-American mayor in 1970, called Mr. Porambo "bright but erratic." Gibson said Mr. Porambo's conclusion – the disturbance was aggravated and prolonged to overreacting authorities – wasn't his alone.

ELAINE E. MOTLEY, 74

She was the longtime owner of "The Lounge," 55 Central Ave., in Orange.

Elaine was the wife of the late Willie Motley and the beloved mother of Charlene T. Motley and the late Jacqueline Motley.

ARMAND E. LEMBO SR., 83

Federal narcotics special agent
Health and welfare director in Newark

Born in Newark, Mr. Lembo lived in Sea Girt for 32 years, before moving to Manasquan six years ago. He was the director of inspections for the city of Newark, a former special agent with the Federal Bureau of Narcotics and a special investigator of the Waterfront Commission of N.Y. Harbor.

BLANCH ROMAN, 86

Elementary teacher

She was an elementary school teacher for the Newark Board of Education for 40 years before retiring in 1992.

She was married to the late Dr. Daniel Roman, and was the beloved mother of Rebecca Ruth Roman, Beverly Olivera Roman, Beryl Louisa Roman and the late William Bert Johnson.

AUTRY LEE ELLIS, 81

Resident of Newark

Mrs. Ellis was the wife of the late R.P., the mother of Lillian Warren-Ellis, Anna and Rose Ellis, Janice Williams and the late Ellis Ellis III, the grandmother of 10 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. She is also survived by a host of other relatives and friends.

MARCIA ROWE, 59

Blue Cross and Blue Shield retiree

Mrs. Rowe was the loving wife of the late James Gordon Rowe, she was the adored mother of Dajuana Rowe-Mayers, the beloved daughter of Annie R. Givens and late Ernest Givens.

Continued on page 16

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Falling LEAVES

– continued from page 15

ENOLIA P. McMILLAN, 102
first female president of NAACP

She was also an educator whose career spanned 42 years.

Ms. McMillan became a teacher in 1927 and crusaded for equal pay for black teachers and better schools for black students. She helped to reactivate the city chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in 1935 and was active in the organization for more than five decades.

She also held the title of NAACP national president for many years. The role at the time was largely ceremonial, but she had considerable influence over the group's agenda and daily operations. She also played a key role in persuading the NAACP to move its national headquarters from New York to Baltimore in 1986.

Kweisi Mfume, former president and CEO of the NAACP and a close friend of the McMillan family, said she was a "pillar of the civil rights movement."

"She was very much the matriarch of the NAACP," Mfume told The (Baltimore) Sun. "She was a fighter who was relentless in pursuing justice."

–continued from the front cover

JAMES CARL BENJAMIN

He held a position with the Cafeteria workers for the Newark Public Schools. As a member of the Committee for a Unified Newark, he was influential in changing the School's Districts appointed Board to a elected Board of nine members. The Committee played a major part in community action and voter registration.In the 70's Local 3 (Hotel & Restaurant Employees Union) elected him President. over the next 25 years he campaigned and was an organizer for major School Board elections.. True to his passion, he was involved and extremely active in Municipal and Gubernatorial elections

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS, to one and all!!

Too bad, this is also a sad time for us as 2006 closes – many of our well know friends have left us. (See, *Fallen Leaves* column in this issue.)...

The Black Mirror News' wants to extend Seasons' Greetings to many of our friends, particularly the ones we haven't heard from this year like our friend Les townsend of The townsend Management Group, LLC (Denver CO). he always met us at the robert Treat Hotel when he was back East to do business... Debra Paul, our area representative from the US Dept. of Labor in the Iselin NJ office... We wonder did Harold Still one of the home boys go back to Brazil – his home away from home, smiles; Did you know that Ms. Constance Cherry is the public relations person from East Orange NJ mayor Robert Bowser? He has been rebuilding that city ever since he was elected – good job too... This column has not seen Jan Williams, Johnnie Bennett, Jackie Matteson, Debbie Jones or Judith Fantes – please tell me where "they hang out," – we also miss Roger R. Chugh... Saw Sharon robinson Briggs, the major of Plainfield down in AC with the League of Municipalities crowd... Anthony c. Mack, the attorney at Law wishes everyone the best for the season... Della Moses Walker, the realtor, says this year she'll sell over a million dollars worth of real estate – smiles... Speaking of real estate – when you allow Lance Diggs to sell your real estate property you're going to be successful – smiles... John's Place on Wright Street in Newark, is home of the best southern-style cooking around, John Steward standing out front of his place recently looking like "quite the squire" – smiles... The staff at WBGO Jazz 88 wish all of its listeners the best for 2007 and reminds them to become a supporting member of the commercial-free public radio station. That's right – nothing but jazz – 24/7... smiles. Denise Hamilton and Friends at Cecil's Jazz Club, 364 Valley Road, West Orange, NJ – music time 4PM until 9PM, check them out for the holidays...

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BIOGRAPHY -

Anthony C. Mack was born and raised in Newark's North Ward (at the time known as the 4th Ward). He is a graduate of Bloomfield Technical High School. He received his undergraduate degree from Seton Hall University and his Juris Doctor from Rutgers University School of Law Newark.

Mr. Mack is a former staff attorney with Legal Aid Society - Criminal Defense Division in Manhattan. There he represented indigent defendants in a wide variety of criminal matters. Mr. Mack is now in private practice with offices in Newark and in Manhattan. He specializes in criminal defense, personal injury and civil rights litigation.

Mr. Mack currently serves as counsel to several activist organizations such as the People's Organization for Progress. Mr. Mack also served as lead counsel in the 1998 Million Youth March criminal trial in New York County Supreme Court.

Some of Mr. Mack's notable current clients are Sammy "The Bull" Gravano and the Estate of Jose Luis Ives, Jr. (the 17 year old who was slain in July of 2003 by a Weehawken police officer).

Mr. Mack has also served as a legal correspondent on various radio shows on WLIB, WBLS & The Open Line on Kiss-FM.

Mr. Mack credits his wide range of experiences as an adolescent and young man in the City of Newark, to give him a personal view of the many plights that affect his clients.

He also credits his hard work ethic, which is the basis of his accomplishments to date, to his mother who is now deceased but worked as a housekeeper in South Orange when he was growing up.

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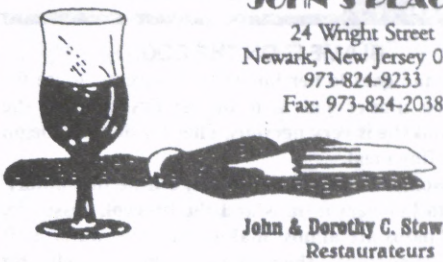
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A woman goes to her boyfriend's parents house for Christmas dinner. This is to be her first meeting the family and she is very nervous. They all sit down begin eating a fine meal.

The woman is beginning to feel a little discomfort, thanks to her nervousness and the broccoli casserole. The gas pains are almost making her eyes water. Left with no other choice, she decides to relieve herself a bit and lets out a *dainty fart.*

It wasn't loud, but everyone at the table heard the poof. Before she even had a chance to be embarrassed, her boyfriend's father looked over at the dog that had been snoozing under the woman's chair, and said in a rather stern voice, "Skippy!".

The woman thought, "this is great!" and a big smile came across her face. A couple of minutes later, she was beginning to feel the pain again. This time, she didn't even hesitate. She let a much louder and longer *rrrrrip.*

The father again looked at the dog and yelled, "Dammit Skippy!" Once again the woman smiled and thought "Yes!" A few minutes later the woman had to let *another rip.* This time she didn't even think about it. She let a *fart rip* that rivaled a train whistle blowing.

Once again, the father looked at the dog with disgust and yelled, *"Dammit Skippy, get away from her, before she shits on you!"*

– (Special thanks to GLORIA AUSTIN for giving me this joke)

ΩΩΩ

THE GOLD URNAL

Before the 2001 inauguration of George W. Bush, George was invited to a get-acquainted tour of the White House. After drinking several glasses of iced tea, he asked Bill Clinton if he could use his personal bathroom.

When he entered Clinton's private toilet, he was astonished to see that President Clinton had a solid gold urinal. That afternoon, George told his wife, Laura, about the urinal. "Just think," he said, "when I am president, I could have a gold urinal too. But I wouldn't do something that self-indulgent".

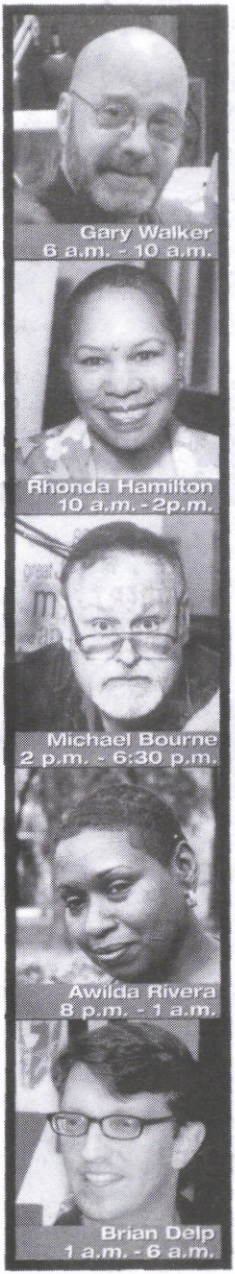
Later, when Laura had lunch with Hilary at the White House, she told Hillary how impressed George had been at his discovery of the fact that, in the President's private bathroom, the President had a gold urinal.

That evening, when Bill and Hillary were getting ready for bed, Hillary smiled, and said to Bill *"I found out who pissed in your saxophone".*

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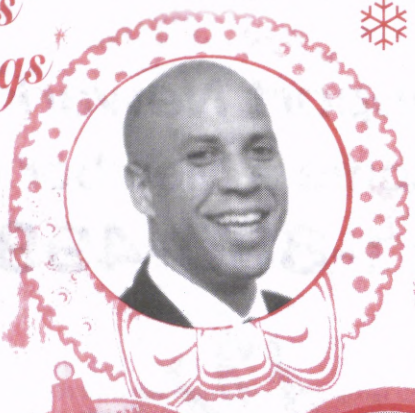
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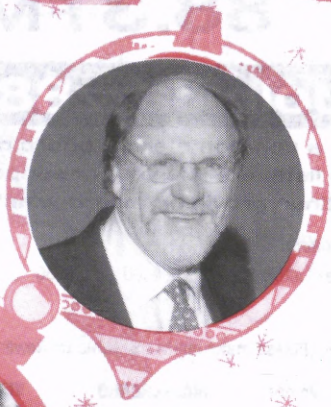
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